United Nations E/RES/2016/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 July 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 19 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 2 June 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2016/26)*]

2016/6. Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, 2008/19 of 24 July 2008, 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, 2012/7 of 26 July 2012 and 2014/3 of 12 June 2014 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council", in which the Assembly stipulated that the Council should invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme and that it should ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clearer policy guidance to them,[1]

Recognizing the commitment, and emphasizing the need, to strengthen the Council, within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations as a principal organ of the Organization, in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the Commission continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly[2] and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues,

[1] General Assembly resolution 68/1, annex, paras. 3 and 8.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

16-10230 (E)

Please recycle

Bearing in mind its resolution 1995/60 of 28 July 1995, by which it decided that the Commission should, inter alia, adapt its mandate so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development, review and update its methods of work, and make recommendations regarding social development to the Council,

Recalling its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, by which it decided that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, shall assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[3] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[4] and shall advise the Council thereon,

Recognizing the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[5] the World Programme of Action for Youth,[6] the objectives of the International Year of the Family and their follow-up processes and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,[7] as well as the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[8] and other relevant key instruments, are mutually reinforcing to advance social development for all,

Recognizing also that a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework will make a vital contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and will help countries to maximize and track progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda to ensure that no one is left behind,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, shall review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[3] and the Programme of Action of

---

[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

[7] General Assembly resolution 68/3.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

the World Summit for Social Development,[4] in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

2. *Affirms* that the Commission will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, while engaging all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the high-level political forum, according to the organizational arrangements to be established by the General Assembly and the Council;

3. *Decides* that the Commission will report on social aspects related to the agreed main theme of the Council in order to contribute to its work;

4. *Also decides* to maintain the two-year review and policy cycle for the 2017 and 2018 sessions of the Commission;

5. *Reaffirms* that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission shall continue to be elected for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the 2017–2018 review and policy cycle;

6. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2017–2018 review and policy cycle, which shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council, will be "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all";

7. *Also decides* to consider the biennialization of the resolutions of the Commission, with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues between the Council and the General Assembly;

8. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to continue to actively participate in the work of the Commission at an appropriately high level;

9. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in line with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;[2]

10. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, including at its fifty-fifth session in 2017, in order to adjust, as appropriate, to the work and the cycle of the Council.

28th plenary meeting
2 June 2016

---

[9] General Assembly resolution 70/1.